



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,761	04/13/2004	Scott William Lockwood	53293.0121	6751
57600	7590	02/22/2010		
HOLLAND & HART LLP 60 E. South Temple, Suite 2000 P.O. Box 11583 Salt Lake City, UT 84110			EXAMINER	
			JOSHI, SUNITA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2614		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		02/22/2010	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/824,761	Applicant(s) LOCKWOOD ET AL.
	Examiner SUNITA JOSHI	Art Unit 2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/20/04 and 07/15/2004
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 12 and 13 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claims 12 and 13 are identical to Claim 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
4. **Claims 1-7, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102 (b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Publication No. (US 20020054689A1) by Zhang et al.**

As to Claim 1,Zhang teaches a *method for programming a programmable hearing aid (# 106) with a configurable hearing aid programmer(# 102 coupled to client machine 104) under the control of a computer* (upgrade server machine 108) See at least Figure 1, page 2 [0027]),, the method comprising: starting the computer (upgrade server machine 108. See at least Figure 1, Figure 3, page 3 [0028], [0029], [0033]) ; executing hearing aid fitting software on the computer (See at least pages 2- 3, [0028] , [0029])

; obtaining hearing aid fitting parameters at the computer (step 304, Figure 3, page 3 [0034]). Also see step 508, figure 5, page 4 [0047], [0048]).

displaying the opportunity to download a firmware program to the hearing aid programmer (as once the upgrade server receives the authentication information , it is compared with the stored authentication information, then a decision 512 determines that the user has been verified , and the upgrade processing can continue, page 4-5 [0049], [0050]) ;

downloading a firmware program to the hearing aid programmer in response to an affirmative response to said displaying;(as continuing the upgrade processing after the device has been verified, which includes downloading the new software to the device.

See at least page 5, [0050], [0051]. Further, upgrading the hearing aid includes reprogramming the reprogrammable memory of the hearing aid device. See at least page 1 [0011], [0012], page 3 [0029], [0035], [0036],, Figure 3). Also, See step 524 on Figure 5, page 5 [0050]. Zhang also teaches the upgraded data is typically software resources in the form of programming code that are stored to the programmable hearing aid device. See at least page 4, [0044]). Zhang further teaches the software resources are downloaded from remote server to a local client. See at least page 1 [0008]).

*downloading hearing aid parameters to the hearing aid programmer; and
programming the hearing aid with the hearing aid programmer (as updating the database containing user information or device characteristics and status information in step 522 and sending the upgraded data file to the client machine in step 524. See at least page 5 [0050], figure 5). The client machine can be the client machine 104 and/ or*

the hearing aid programming device 102, which is further used to program the hearing aids 106. See at least page 3 [0037], also see page 2 [0027]).

As to Claim 2, Zhang teaches a method of claim 1, and *verifying that a connection between the hearing aid programmer and the hearing aid exists prior to said programming* (See at least page 1 [0011]).

As to Claim 3, Zhang teaches the limitations of claim 1, and *coupling the computer to the hearing aid programmer prior to said displaying* (See at least page 1 [0011]), [page 4 [0047], [0048]).

As to Claim 4, Zhang teaches the limitations of claim 1, and *coupling the hearing aid to the hearing aid programmer prior to said downloading hearing aid parameters* (See at least page 1 [0011]).

As to Claim 5, Zhang teaches the limitations of Claim 3, and *coupling the hearing aid to the hearing aid programmer prior to the said downloading hearing aid parameters* (See at least page 1 [0011]).

As to Claim 6, Zhang teaches a *hearing aid programming system, comprising: a computer under the control of hearing aid fitting software(Hearing aid upgrade server machine 108, figure 1, page 3, [0029])*.

a hearing aid programmer (# 102 coupled to the client machine 104, figure 1) coupled to the computer (upgrade server 108, Figure 1) and responsive to a firmware program, the firmware program downloadable to the hearing aid programmer only in response to a user input at the computer (page 3 [0029], as receiving an upgrade request on page 3 [0034], [0035], Figure 3).

a programmable hearing aid (#106, Figure 1) coupled to the hearing aid programmer (# 102, Figure 1), the hearing aid programmable with parameters transmitted from the computer to the hearing aid programmer(as upgraded data file sent to the client machine in step 524, figure 5, page 5 [0050]) and programmed into nonvolatile memory of the programmable hearing aid by the hearing aid programmer(as the digital hearing aids including a non-volatile memory (e.g. EEPROM, FLASH etc) that can be electronically programmed or rewritten. See at least page 2 [0027]).

As to Claim 7, Zhang teaches the limitations of Claim 6, and the *parameter memory associated with the hearing aid programmer for receiving and storing the parameters* (as the device description file saved on the client machine and is retrieved by the upgrade server. See at least Figure 4A, page 5 [0050]).

As to Claim 14, Zhang teaches an apparatus for programming a hearing aid (See abstract, Figure 1) , comprising:
computer means for executing hearing aid fitting software and capturing patient-specific

parameters (as the hearing aid upgrade server 108, Figure 1 which receives device information on the hearing aid device to be upgraded. See at least Figure 3, step 304, page 3 [0033]-[0035]). ;

hearing aid programmer means(# 102 , Figure 1) *responsive to said computer means* (# 108 Figure 1). Zhang teaches the hearing aid upgrade server 108 is in communication with the client machine 104 coupled to the hearing aid programmer. Also, the client machine and the hearing aid programming device can be combined into a single unit. See at least page 2 [0027], [0029], [0037]) *and to a firmware program for receiving parameters from said computer means and programming the parameters into the hearing aid;* (as the upgrade sever machine 108 transmits the appropriate software resources to the client machine 104, which then instructs the hearing aid programmer 102 to program the hearing aid in accordance with the software resources. See at least page 3 [0029]).*and*

user interface means for obtaining a command from a user prior to downloading the firmware program from said computer means to said hearing aid programmer means (as the upgrade server 108 receives a request from a user to upgrade software for the hearing aid device. See at least page 2 [0016], page 3 [0034], Figure 3 step 302).

As to Claim 15, Zhang teaches a *program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for programming a programmable hearing aid with a configurable hearing aid programmer comprising*(as a computer readable medium including a computer

program code for upgrading a hearing aid device. See at least page 1, [0013])
: starting the computer; executing hearing aid fitting software on the computer; obtaining heating aid fitting parameters at the computer; (as an upgrade server machine 108 associated with one or more manufacturers of hearing aide devices which communicates with the client machine 104 through a public network. See at least pages 2- 3 [0028]. Also, the upgrade server machine 108 receives a device description file which is originally saved at the client device. The device description file has information pertaining to a programmable hearing aid. See at least page 3 [0038]-[0039]), page 5 [0050], Figure 5).

displaying the opportunity to download a firmware program to the hearing aid programmer; (as once the upgrade server receives the authentication information , it is compared with the stored authentication information, then a decision 512 determines that the user has been verified , and the upgrade processing can continue, page 4-5 [0049], [0050]) ;

downloading the firmware program to the hearing aid programmer in response to an affirmative response to said displaying(as continuing the upgrade processing after the device has been verified, which includes downloading the new software to the device. See at least page 5, [0050], [0051]. Further, upgrading the hearing aid includes reprogramming the reprogrammable memory of the hearing aid device. See at least page 1 [0011], [0012], page 3 [0029], [0035], [0036],, Figure 3). Also, See step 524 on Figure 5, page 5 [0050]. Zhang also teaches the upgraded data is typically software resources in the form of programming code that are stored to the programmable hearing

aid device. See at least page 4, [0044]). Zhang further teaches the software resources are downloaded from remote server to a local client. See at least page 1 [0008]). *downloading hearing aid parameters to the hearing aid programmer; and programming the hearing aid with the hearing aid programmer* (as updating the database containing user information or device characteristics and status information in step 522 and sending the upgraded data file to the client machine in step 524. See at least page 5 [0050], figure 5). The client machine can be the client machine 104 and/ or the hearing aid programming device 102, which is further used to program the hearing aids 106. See at least page 3 [0037], also see page 2 [0027]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
 1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
7. **Claims 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Publication No. (US 20020054689A1) by Zhang et al. in**

**view of United States Patent Application Publication No. (US
20020168075A1) by Hagen et al.**

As to Claim 8, Zhang teaches the limitations of Claim 7, and as the hearing aid programming device 102 combined with the client device 104 receives the upgraded data file from the upgrade server. See at least page 2 [0027], page 5 [0050]). Further, the hearing aid programmer then upgrades the hearing aid based on the upgraded data, the upgraded data is typically software resources in the form of programming code that are stored to the programmable hearing aid device. See at least page 1 [0011], page 5, [0050], page 4 [0044]). Zhang do not explicitly teach *a firmware memory associated with the hearing aid programmer for receiving and storing the firmware program*. However, Hagen in related field (Programmable Hearing Aid) teaches a programmable hearing aid programmer 252, having a memory system 272 for storage of hearing aid programming software during the hearing aid programming operation. See at least page 6 [0065] Figure 6). At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to store the hearing aid programming software in a non volatile memory of the hearing aid programmer to be immediately available without downloading. See at least page 2, [0019]).

As to Claim 9, Zhang in view of Hagen teaches the limitations of Claim 8, and a *computer interface for providing an electrical and data communications interface between the computer and the hearing aid programmer (#254, Figure 6 on Hagen)*

As to Claim 10, Zhang in view of Hagen teaches the limitations of Claim 9, and *a hearing aid interface for providing an electrical and data communications interface between the hearing aid programmer and the hearing aid (#274 on Figure 6 on Hagen)*

As to Claim 11, Zhang in view of Hagen teaches the limitations of Claim 10 and *the computer interface complies with the Universal Serial Bus 1.0, 1.1 and 2.0 standard protocol (as PCMCIA interface 254, Figure 6 on Hagen)*

As to Claim 12, Zhang in view of Hagen teaches the limitations of Claim 11, and *the computer interface complies with the Universal Serial Bus 1.0, 1.1 and 2.0 standard protocol (as PCMCIA interface 254, Figure 6 on Hagen)*

As to Claim 13, Zhang in view of Hagen teaches the limitations of Claim 12, and *the computer interface complies with the Universal Serial Bus 1.0, 1.1 and 2.0 standard protocol(as PCMCIA interface card 254, Figure 6 on Hagen)*

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUNITA JOSHI whose telephone number is (571)270-7227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8.00AM -- 5.00P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 5712727499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, for formal communications intended for entry and for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT".
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Arlington, VA 22314

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SUNITA JOSHI/

Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/Brian Ensey/

Application/Control Number: 10/824,761

Page 12

Art Unit: 2614

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614

February 18, 2010